New York State (Outside New York City) COVID-19 Cases and Contacts Contact Tracing Initiative

OVERVIEW

Office of Public Health
Contact Tracing Initiative (CTI)

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Health Data NY

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Health

General Description:

SARS-CoV2, a novel coronavirus, was first identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in 2019. There are many coronaviruses, all of which typically cause respiratory disease in humans. The World Health Organization (WHO) named the disease caused by SARS-CoV2 "COVID-19." In March 2020, WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic due to the number of countries affected by its rapid spread. The primary goal of publishing this dataset is to provide users with information about COVID-19 contact tracing metrics throughout NYS.

This dataset includes cumulative and weekly counts of the number of new COVID-19 cases reported, number of cases reached, percent cases reached, total contacts elicited, total elicited contacts reached, and percent contacts reached by each week. Please note: In the earlier days of the program, the number of cases represented the numbers reported by selected LHDs. Therefore, the volume could be much lower than all new COVID cases.

The information in this dataset is updated weekly.

Data Methodology:

The data source for this dataset is the daily COVID-19 survey through the New York Communicable Disease Case Management System (NYS-CDCMS) and Local Health Department (LDH) reports. Laboratories report test results to New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS). COVID-19 positive test results are uploaded into NYS-CDCMS, also known as CommCare. The local health departments use this information to place positive cases in isolation and to elicit contacts for contact tracing.

The interface between ECLRS and CommCare started in May 2020 for all cases in New York state outside New York City. The data dictionary provides the effective dates for when variables became effective.

The dataset consists of information provided by CommCare or from one Local Health Department reports during the weekly reporting period. The dataset includes number of COVID-19 cases reported, number of cases reached, percent cases reached, total contacts elicited, total elicited contacts reached, and percent contacts reached by each week. The daily information is aggregated to weekly to minimize the possibility of identification of any individuals.

Limitations of Use:

The information in this dataset reflects the most up to date CommCare and Local Health Department reports information available to NYSDOH. Calculations for recent weeks are preliminary as long as cases/contacts from those weeks are still being contacted. In the earlier days of the program, the number of cases represented the numbers reported by selected LHDs. Therefore, the volume could be much lower than all new COVID cases. Weekly counts are impacted when cases or contacts are reached outside the weekly time period. Weekly counts with incomplete data (less than all 7 days) should be used with caution. Due to delays in contact elicitation during periods of case surge the number of cases

reached, number of contacts and the number contacts reached may not be precise. All information reported is preliminary and subject to change. This is self-reported data and is subject to updates, however this express reporting provides the benefit of current and timely situational awareness. Any updates are incorporated in the original data and the daily updates to Health Data NY will reflect any corrections or adjustments. As a result, you may see minor deviations in historical trends between report dates.